

nearly-identical press for his Tyler, Texas, farm in 1875. The press clearly predates the structure; and their seamless integration suggests that the press was built into the gin house when the structure was erected, probably sometime in the late-19th century.³

Little remains of the power source for the gin house equipment, particularly for gins predating existing equipment. Plantations the size of Magnolia could have easily used steam engines; evidence of steam-powered gins exists for plantations in other parts of the South. Steam engines

were generally housed in separate buildings or, at Magnolia, in a shed behind the gin house; but the type and size of the steam engine once mounted on the footers at the rear of the house are unknown.⁴ The separator, distributor, gins, and condenser were likely driven directly by the steam engine, with power transmitted via a system of shafts and belts.⁵ The steam engine probably powered a hydraulic pump to run the press. The extant drive system consists of a main shaft, six wood belt wheels manufactured by the Reeves Pulley Company of Columbus, Indiana, and two metal

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What Is HAER?

Last of the programs created as part of the “new preservation” in the late 1960s, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) was established to expand heritage memory to include the achievements of engineers, industrialists, and laborers. “New preservation” was begun in the 1960s by a group of historians, architects, and preservationists concerned with the alarming rate at which architectural landmarks and the scenic and historic quality of American cities were being destroyed by highways and urban renewal in the name of “progress.” One of the results was the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and creation of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation within the National Park Service, now the Associate Directorship, Cultural Resources Stewardship and Partnerships. Since 1969, HAER has worked to ensure that engineering structures and industrial workplaces are recorded, and when possible, preserved along with historic architecture and other worthy resources.

Preservation through documentation has been the *modus operandi* of HAER as it has created a national archive of America’s industrial, engineering, and technological achievements. Some of the sites recorded serve as the foundation for subsequent preservation efforts that transform communities and the way people think of the industrial workplace. Steel mills, factories, foundries, and the canal, road, and rail infrastructure now are beginning to be thoughtfully regarded and preserved with new insights. Through its federal authority, national standards, summer recording program, and Library of Congress archives, HAER has helped instill a national ethic to recognize the oft-forgotten contributions of engineers, industrialists, and laborers.

Since 1969 over 4,900 sites, structures, and objects have been recorded with over 53,000 photographs, 500 large-format color transparencies, 42,000 data pages, and 3,000 sheets of measured and interpretive drawings

have been transmitted to the Library of Congress. Summer recording teams have been the heart of the HAER program. Since the program’s inception 28 years ago, over 1,000 young people have had the opportunity of a “hands-on” experience documenting the nation’s industrial, engineering, and architectural heritage every summer. Student hires remain the core of the summer documentation program, and the fundamental day-to-day philosophy of HAER recording remains the multi-disciplinary team approach with a site-specific focus on the physical remains of engineering and industrial heritage. Documentation also is produced through the mitigatory documentation program administered by the Service Center Offices of the National Park Service. E. Blaine Cliver serves as Chief, HABS/HAER. Recording projects for the summer of 1997 included:

Allegheny Oil Heritage Recording Project, Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania
Continental Eagle Gin Company, Prattville, Alabama
Hull-Oakes Lumber Company, Monroe, Oregon
John A. Roebling Sons, Wire Rope Manufacturing Plant, Roebling, New Jersey
Kalaupapa Water Collection System, Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Molokai, Hawaii
Magnolia Plantation Cotton Gins & Presses, Natchitoches, Louisiana
Mariscal Quicksilver Mine & Reduction Works, Big Bend National Park, Texas
National Park Service Roads & Bridges Recording Program: Blue Ridge Parkway, Blowing Rock, North Carolina & Vinton, Virginia
Natchez Trace Parkway, Mississippi/Tennessee
Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi
Pennsylvania Historic Bridges-I, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Southern Textile Project, Huntsville & Valley, Alabama, LaGrange, Georgia
Steam Tug *Hercules*, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

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